

COMMERCE/WOWRA POWTS PROGRAM TELECONFERENCE
Monday August 21, 2006 2:00 – 2:50 p.m.

Participants:

Commerce – Brad Johnson, Harold Stanlick, Roman Kaminski
WOWRA – Bill Baudhuin, Sherri Guyse, Todd Stair

Discussion Items:

- Roman provided an update on the Comm 83 code revision process. Request for nomination letters were sent to various organizations last week. The deadline for submitting names for consideration for the advisory code council is September 01, 2006. The first council meeting is expected to be held in mid to late September.
- Sherri expressed concern about a recent increase in enforcement of s. Comm 83.22(2)(b)5.a.&b. provisions relative to establishment of ownership of POWTS that will serve more than one structure or building. Brad and Roman verified that this code section has been receiving more attention in part because of unique ownership arrangements that have appeared on certain plan submittals. Sherri indicated there is concern that governmental units are not always asking for this type of information for in-ground gravity flow plans they review. Roman indicated that this existing code provision is an example of something that could be addressed by the advisory code council to see if a distinction can be made between simple single owner designs and the more complicated ones.
- Bill mentioned that at least one county is requiring that copies of signed maintenance/servicing contracts be recorded with the deed for the property. Roman indicated that the counties were specifically instructed not to require that during training last winter. The county will be contacted to remind them of what the code requirement is.
- Bill also read a list of conflict of interest concerns he received that involve county personnel doing POWTS related work as private contractors. Roman indicated that this too is an issue that should be brought to the attention of the code advisory council for discussion and recommendations. (The NOWRA model code includes language that would preclude public sector employees from performing private sector work.)
- Todd discussed the current “plan forwarding policy”. Brad agreed that if a submitter identifies a specific office where they would like to have a plan reviewed the department will do the best it can to honor the request.
- Brad described staffing changes that may occur as a result of Keith Wilkinson's resignation.
- Bill asked about what appears to be a change in policy regarding onsite by the Wastewater Specialists. Specifically, he would like the ability to request that a Wastewater Specialist verify a soil report before plans are prepared and submitted. Harold responded that barring being scheduled for plan review a Wastewater

Specialist should be able to provide this type of consultative service. The matter will be discussed at the next Wastewater Specialist teleconference.

- Bill asked if a designer can ask to meet with the Individual Submittal Design (ISD) group when their plan is up for review. Brad responded that yes this was possible and is being done.
- Bill voiced concern about variations in plan review from office to office and one reviewer to another. (He and the other WOWRA representatives did acknowledge that overall plan review is going well this summer.) Brad reminded the group that when individual plan submitters have questions or issues that they cannot resolve with the reviewer they are working with that they should call him as the POWTS matrix chief. Procedures such as monthly teleconferences, periodic program meetings and audits are other tools available to address consistency issues. But it must be remembered that this is an issue that will always be present so again the key is to follow the process outlined earlier to get timely resolution.
- Roman reminded the group that not all ISD's are reviewed by the ISD group. Brad confirmed that only a small percentage (approx. 5%) may be reviewed by this group and then usually only the "big picture" items are discussed. So if a submitter has questions and/or issues that cannot be resolved with the reviewer they should contact Brad.
- Sherri mentioned that her firm experienced some difficulty earlier this summer getting plans out of the Madison office on a timely basis. The delays lasted a few weeks but seem to have been resolved.
- The next joint teleconference will be held in approximately three months.